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COUNTRY **Bulgaria**

DATE DISTR. **15 Oct. 1951**

SUBJECT **Trenches and Fortifications in the
Malko Gradishte Area**

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1. The trenches and fortifications in the Malko Gradishte (RG 5863) area grad district.

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2. The trenches in the Novo Selo area were started on 15 December 1950 and completed 1 May 1951. These trenches are composed of three (3) separate parallel sets of trenches interspersed with machine gun and gun positions. All three (3) trench systems start at the Maritsa River and follow along the border. The first line of trenches parallels the border approximately one (1) kilometer on the interior. This line almost passes directly through Novo Selo. The second system of trenches is located four (4) kilometers further in the interior from the first line, and the third is between four (4) and five (5) kilometers from the second. The third line passes through the village of Lyubimets (RG 5863).

3. All three (3) trench systems or belts are composed of parallel infantry trenches about 500 meters apart, with communicating trenches and machine gun and heavy weapons emplacements located in both.

4. From 1 May 1951 to the end of June, 1951 the network of trenches was continued around the village of Merez (RG 5862). From 1 July 1951 on new trenches were started around the village of Malko Gradishte.

5. In the Malko Gradishte area the trenches were constructed with the first line approximately 500 to 800 meters inside the border and parallel to a tank trap dug in front of the trenches, which was 8 meters wide at the top, 2 meters wide at the bottom, and varying from 2 to 4 meters in depth. Fifty (50) meters from the tank trap is a line of tank barricades constructed of heavy oak trunks and barbed wire. The tank barricade lies between the tank trap and the first line of trenches. The first line of trenches begins approximately 80 meters in back of the tank barricade. The second and third trench systems or belts are built four (4) kilometers in back of each other, as described above.

6. The tank trap and tank barricade are constructed more or less in a straight line, but the trench systems are in zigzag form.

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Country: Bulgaria

Subject: Trenches and Fortifications
in the Malko Gradishte Area (Continued)

7. The trenches are constructed 1.20 meters deep, 1.10 meters wide at the top, and 60 cm. wide at the bottom. The trenches are vertical for the first 30 centimeters and then slant upwards at an angle to enable the soldiers to have clear fields of fire.

8. Within these trench systems, at strategic points, machine gun, mortar and other heavier weapons emplacements have been constructed. There are also niches for use of sharpshooters using rifles with telescopic sights. On the north side of the trenches (the side facing Bulgaria) there are periodic squares cut out for use of stretcher bearers and ammunition carriers in passing one another and troops in the trenches.

9. The Malko Gradishte trenches are an exact duplicate of all the trenches constructed along the Bulgaro-Turk and Bulgaro-Greek border in the Maritsa area. The trenches in Mezak and Malko Gradishte areas were lacking only a few days of final completion at the beginning of August, 1951.

10. [REDACTED]

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11. Various Trudovaks in the above-listed units had been brought in from other units similarly engaged in the construction of trenches. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] similar trenches had been completed at Gara Pedkova. [REDACTED]

12. Trudovak [REDACTED] was composed of 250 men and was designated as a company. The following are command personalities in the company:

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a. Senior (Lieut.) GRAMATIKOV, (fnu), company commander [REDACTED]

b. (Lieut.) BOCHUKOV, (fnu), deputy commander, political section, [REDACTED]

c. Senior (Lieut.) SOLAKOV, (fnu), platoon leader, career officer [REDACTED]

d. Junior (Lieut.) SHISHKOV, (fnu), platoon leader, newly-commissioned officer. [REDACTED]

e. Senior (Sergeant) DJUGALANOV, (fnu), platoon sergeant, [REDACTED]

f. Senior (Sergeant) Stefan PUSLIISKI, platoon sergeant, [REDACTED]

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